

**KUDO** et al.

Serial No. 10/702,090

Response to the Office Action dated May 16, 2006

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as allegedly being "anticipated" by Gale et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,930,404). While not acquiescing in this rejection, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of now-canceled claim 2. The discussion below makes reference to amended claim 1.

Claim 1 is directed to an electric power supply unit that includes, among other things, a control device that controls operations of a first electric power supply circuit so as to keep its voltage at a predetermined value, and controls operations of a second electric power supply circuit so as to keep its voltage at approximately same value as that of the first electric power supply circuit.

The office action states that Gale et al. teaches keeping each power supply circuit voltage at a predetermined value (42 volts). See 5/16/2006 Office Action, page 2. Each of the power sources 14, 20 in Gale et al. is a battery that supplies an output of 42 volts. Gale et al., col. 2, lines 36-38. Controller 41 is described as controlling whether these batteries 14, 20 are connected in series or parallel. Gale et al., col. 3, lines 12-34. There is no description that controller 41 controls either battery so that its voltage is at a predetermined value or so that the voltages of the batteries are approximately the same. Consequently, Gale et al. does not disclose the control device of claim 1 and therefore does not anticipate this claim or its dependent claim 7.

Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as allegedly being "anticipated" by Hazelton et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,720,862). Hazelton et al. discloses that first and second power supply lines (a line to accessories 30, and a line to an alternator 32) from a battery 12 are controlled by a battery control system 10. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. Hazelton et al. does not teach the control device of claim 1 and therefore does not anticipate this claim or its dependent claim 6.

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as allegedly being "obvious" over Matsudaira et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,177,739) and Shirai et al. (U.S. Patent

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6,328,394). Matsudaira et al. discloses DC-DC converters 622, 623 and that switches 64, 65 are controlled by a power source control means 66 in, for example, a power-saving mode.

Matsudaira et al., col. 6, lines 3-25. There is no disclosure of the control device of claim 1, which as noted above, includes the features of now-canceled claim 2. Claims 8 and 9 each also require control of first and second electric power supply circuits along the lines of amended claim 1 and thus Matsudaira et al. is likewise deficient with respect to these claims. Shirai et al. teaches that a light receive sensor 222 detects a power display portion 120 of an image recording apparatus 100, and in accordance with the result of detection, a stamping apparatus 200 is controlled to an on-state or an off-state. There is no disclosure of the control specified in claims 1, 8 and 9. Consequently, even assuming for the sake of argument that Shirai et al. and Matsudaira et al. were properly combinable, the subject matter of claims 1, 8 and 9 and any claims depending therefrom would not result.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 (a) as allegedly being "obvious" over Matsudaira et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,177,739), Shirai et al. (U.S. Patent 6,328,394), and Giannopoulos (U.S. Patent 6,504,267). Giannopoulos is applied for its disclosure of a backflow-inhibiting diode, and does not remedy the deficiencies of Matsudaira et al. and Shirai et al. with respect to claim 1.

New claims 10-18 have been added. The subject matter of these new claims is believed to be fully supported by the original disclosure so that no new matter is added. Claim 10 specifies an arrangement in which an output voltage of a first electric power supply circuit is controlled to be substantially constant and an output voltage of a second electric power supply circuit is controlled to be approximately equal to the output voltage of the first electric power supply circuit. Applicants submit that at least these features patentably distinguish claim 10 and its dependent claims from the applied documents.

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The pending claims are believed to be allowable and favorable office action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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